Winfield Scott Stratton 1848 - 1902

- Winfield Scott Stratton was born in 1848 in Indiana and died in 1902 in Colorado Springs.
- He studied carpentry in his father’s river shipyards.
- In 1872, Stratton moved west, settling in Colorado Springs where he began a carpentry and building business; he earned $3 a day.
- In 1874, he also began prospecting for gold and silver. He took classes in metallurgy at the Colorado School of Mines and geology at Colorado College.
- He married Zeurah Stewart in 1876, but they divorced within a few years.
- On July 4, 1891, Stratton filed a claim for the Independence Mine in Cripple Creek. Two years later he found a gold vein close to the surface that was worth three million dollars.
- Stratton’s yearly income averaged one million dollars until 1899 when he sold the Independence for ten million dollars.
- Although wealthy, Stratton lived a simple life and moved into a wooden house on Weber Street. He gave thousands of dollars to improve Colorado Springs, including a modern street car system, a baseball park, land on which to build city hall and the post office, the Mining Exchange building, and even bicycles for the laundry ladies.
- Throughout his life, Stratton helped the poor. His legacy, the Myron Stratton Home, still serves many people today.

Great Resources on Winfield Scott Stratton


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